

Convention or No Convention.

Conservative meetings and journals throughout the State continue to disagree upon the question of a Convention, and those who oppose are not united upon a common plan of action against its call. The Newbern Journal of Commerce believes that too much has already been done towards bringing out Conservative candidates in the various counties to make the non-action policy successful. It therefore regards direct opposition as the surest mode of defeating the Convention.

On the other hand, at a very large and influential meeting at Goldsboro, during the present week, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to the voters of Wayne county to go en masse to the polls and vote for the chosen candidates—but cast no vote either for or against Convention.

This resolution is in exact accordance with the recommendation of this paper, and we still believe that had the Conservatives of the State united upon this plan, it would probably have caused the defeat of the Convention without in the least placing in jeopardy the success of their candidates. It certainly would not be more unusual to vote for delegates without voting for a Convention than voting for them and against a Convention. We have never failed to urge the Conservatives to vote for candidates in every instance, regardless of their position upon the question of a Convention. We are unwilling to forfeit the strong probabilities of having a majority of Conservative delegates to the possible chance of defeating the call.

It is true that most of the papers, and we believe the white people in the eastern part of the State are opposed to a Convention, yet, if we may judge from the papers in Raleigh and west of that point, which are, with one exception, either openly in favor of a Convention or opposed to organized opposition thereto, we are forced to believe that but little effort will be made to defeat the call in the larger portion of the State. Assuming, therefore, that a sufficient number of Conservatives will vote with the Radicals to insure the assembling of the Convention, we are satisfied that it will be easier, if the proper efforts are made, to defeat objectionable action on the part of the Convention in case it is controlled by Radicals. The seventeen counties which return negro majorities are entitled to but thirty-two of the one hundred and twenty delegates of which the Convention will be composed. We suppose that in much the larger portion of the State the lines between the races will be as closely drawn as they were in Virginia and Georgia. In both of those States the native white Radicals are men of more position and talent than those in North Carolina, while their Northern leaders are the equals of their fellows in this State in every respect. The efforts to obtain white support has been as great and will prove as effective there as here, and we cannot doubt that our people are as patriotic and jealous of their good name as those of Virginia or Georgia, and we have but little fear that North Carolinians will more readily accept the dishonorable proposals of Radicalism than have their neighbors.

We are therefore persuaded that the Conservatives will be in a majority in the Convention, and we suppose the Constitution of North Carolina will give the colored people of this State the same privileges conferred upon the colored people of New York and Ohio by the Constitutions of those States. In doing so, North Carolina has the endorsement in advance of every Northern State in which elections have been held during the present year, and if Congress does not accept us with Constitutions so formed, the people will repudiate them and the wicked party of which they are fit representatives by a storm of condemnation and indignation unparalleled in the political history of the world. The colored people of the South will yet learn that every permanent right which they will ever possess will be bestowed upon them by the liberality and justice of the Southern whites, and the time and character of the bestowal will depend upon their own conduct and advancement. Their claims certainly are not being promoted by their present disposition or their utter want of independence and judgment in being led by unscrupulous adventurers into associations and oath-bound leagues in direct hostility to the interests of their section and former friends.

The Election—Form of Ticket.

Nearly two weeks since, we addressed a letter to District Headquarters, asking information in regard to the particular form of the ticket. What we desired to know was, whether the elector could vote for delegates without voting upon the question of a Convention. As yet, we have had no response to our inquiries, and the time between this and the election days is so short that an answer will soon become useless. We had hoped the very great importance of the questions to the people of this State would have insured an immediate reply, but in this we have been disappointed, and must content ourselves with giving such information as is in our reach. The elections in the military districts, though each commander is acting under the same law and deriving his powers from the same authority, like all other matters relating to the government, are conducted differently, in accordance with the caprice of each commanding officer, and though elections have already been held in four of the ten States, and we are in a few days of the election in North Carolina, nothing definite has been established here or elsewhere. Through the kindness of Colonel FRANK, we have been shown the form of the ticket common to both North and South Carolina. We fear its complication, if rigidly adhered to, will make invalid a majority of the votes cast, unless the greatest pains be taken in their preparation. The form of the ticket and the absence of explicit orders and directions in regard to an election, upon the result of which the

welfare of the State in such a great measure depends, shows the utter folly of purely military men, however fine may be their reputations as soldiers, attempting to meddle in civil affairs.

The tickets must have endorsed at the top "CONVENTION AND DELEGATES." Then just below, FOR A CONVENTION OR AGAINST A CONVENTION, as the voter desires. Then the word DELEGATE or DELEGATES, as the county or district may be entitled to one or more. The names of the delegates following must be in full, both Christian and surnames. In depositing the ticket in the ballot-box it must be so folded that the words "CONVENTION AND DELEGATES" will be seen.

Our people, unused to such form in their ballots, will find much difficulty in arranging them in accordance with these requirements, and we suppose, from the directions we have seen, that they must be conformed to or their votes will be thrown aside as invalid.

Without a direct answer to our letter of inquiry, we must accept the form of the ticket as a negative response to our question, and conclude that electors will be required to vote either for or against a Convention in order to vote for delegates. As we have said in former issues, our citizens must run no risks in the matter. Conservative delegates must be elected without reference to the question of a Convention. No efforts must be spared in order to accomplish this result. The Conservatives can and must control the Convention. The stakes are too important—success so beneficial—defeat so fatal to our best interests—that no outside question must be permitted to interfere with our support of proper candidates. We must sink personal preferences—business must not prevent our votes being cast—the days of the election must be devoted to North Carolina.

The Result of the Elections.

Although the result of the recent elections have not all been definitely ascertained, enough is known to see that the doctrines and tenets of the Radical faction in Congress have been rebuked. The verdict of October has been endorsed, and Radical supremacy is rapidly passing away, and will not survive long enough to fasten upon the South the evils resulting from its tardy efforts to Africanize this section of the country. The Northern people, aroused to the imminence of the national danger, are rapidly throwing off the shackles which fanaticism had bound around them, and alarmed at the clanking of the chains forged for the enslavement of Southern white men, have risen up in their night, confronted the tyrants and ordered them to cease their schemes of disunion and anarchy.

The result of the elections has certainly filled the hearts of all true patriots with joy. It is decisive. Radicalism has been shorn of its locks and is no longer a feared power in the land. Congress has entrenched upon the powers of the Executive and Judiciary until they are hardly independent departments of the Government; the veto of the President is utterly powerless to check them in their career of illegal and profligate violations of the Constitution, and the entire ignoring of public and private rights; but the people have now issued their veto which must not, cannot be disregarded. Already the handwriting is on the wall—availability, not orthodox Radicalism, is the guiding star of Presidential aspirations. Chase, and Colfax, and Stanton, and even Sheridan, "with his blushing honors fall upon him," must give way. Some one not contaminated with "manhood suffrage" must be the coming man. Indeed, the heaven of Conservatism already works. Its healthful effects are already witnessed. Agrarianism, confiscation, disfranchisement, negro suffrage, are dead, and no mourners go about the streets, but many rejoice with exceeding gladness. The day of Southern thralldom is passing away—reconstruction with generous reconciliation will yet convert our unhappy, down-trodden tyrannies into prosperous, happy States. Virtue, honesty and intelligence will yet be vindicated, and ignorance and corruption meet their proper reward.

Beaufort Politics.

We learn from a communication in the Newbern Republican that Colonel WILLIAM B. RODMAN is running for the Convention, if not as a Radical candidate, on the same ticket with a Mr. Stille, an avowed Radical and in favor of the Congressional plan of reconstruction. Col. RODMAN's numerous friends throughout the State will exceedingly regret his position and the company he is in. We have not the heart, had we the disposition, to upbraid him for his course, and part from him with the most heartfelt regret. We honor him for his ability, his great personal worth and for his services in the past, but we can have no sympathy with, or respect for, his present position.

We hope to see some statement from him explaining his opinions different from those attributed to him by the correspondents of the Republican, and, above all, trust we shall not see his name in the Standard as one of the candidates endorsed by that paper. We desire that our friend shall be saved from this humiliation.

We see by the same letter that Colonel DAVID M. CARTER, heretofore recognized as one of the ablest leaders of the Radicals in this State, takes strong grounds against a Convention. Being disfranchised, he takes no active part in politics, but being called upon stated he was opposed to a Convention. He alluded to the fact of his being one of the first to urge upon the people peace measures; that he had been instrumental in obtaining for the negro the right to testify in the courts; that he was willing and ready to give the black man the right of citizenship; but while he was willing to free the black man, he was not willing to enslave the whites; and by sustaining the Congressional plan we would with our own hands bind the fetters on ourselves.

In deploring the departing footsteps of one friend, we welcome the returning footsteps of another.

"Against a Convention."

While we are still satisfied that had there been concert of action and the direct approval of the Commanding General that a vote was legal which ignored the question of Convention, the best and surest policy to defeat the call of a Convention would be by non-action; yet, in view of the want of unity on the part of the Conservatives, and the probable decision of General CANBY adversely to the right to vote for delegates, and not for or against Convention, judging from the form of the ticket which he has officially prescribed, we have concluded to advise those opposed to vote AGAINST A CONVENTION. To demonstrate the efficacy, however, of the non-action policy, we may cite the election just held in Virginia. The Convention there was actually carried by the opponents of the measure. There were cast For a Convention, 107,342 votes; Against a Convention, 61,887. If these 61,887 voters had been silent on the Convention question, then the whole vote thereon would have been reduced to 107,342. The whole registered vote of the State was 216,217, of which the Act of Congress required a majority, 108,124, to have voted. Consequently, had those opposing remained silent, the call of the Convention would have been defeated by 782 votes.

But here, as there, no organization of the Conservatives has been effected, and then the objection of illegality, which may and probably will be urged, leads us to think, as stated yesterday, that a manly and open vote in opposition will be the safer course. We therefore urge our friends everywhere to vote Against a Convention, at the same time including on the ticket the names, Christian and surnames in full, of their candidates. The ticket must also be endorsed Convention and Delegates. We regret to see so many meetings and papers of the Conservative party urging the call of a Convention. In differing from them we do so with great respect for their opinions, but with no less earnestness nevertheless. As one and all oppose universal negro suffrage, and in other respects differ from the absolute requirements of the Reconstruction Acts, we cannot see any motive beyond a short-lived policy, ending with the meeting of the Convention, for favoring the call. True, it may irritate Congress for North Carolina to reject a Convention, but their anger would not be less should the Convention, after its assembling, refuse to bow in abject obedience to its orders; and in neither event, we suppose, would its wrath be more aroused than has already been done by the result of the Northern elections. But the powers of that body are gone. In directing the blows of its sharp-edged weapons against the defenceless South, they have been broken by the shield of the Constitution which the North has intervened for our protection.

We know that many of our good citizens, for reasons they deem prudent, some of a local, others of a personal or general nature, will vote for the call of a Convention, though opposed to it. The utter failure we have so frequently made in our attempts to appease Congress should have long ago taught us that no conduct on our part could make them relent in their hostile and proscriptionist spirit towards us. The appeal which the Northern people have made at the ballot-box may ameliorate their disposition, not from any kindly feelings for the South, but from a wholesome and prudent fear of the North. In voting against a Convention we do nothing more than the people of Connecticut, California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have asked us to do—what a decided majority in Kansas and Minnesota heeded us to do—what a million of freemen in Ohio and New York demanded of us. Surely, after the invitation extended to us by these people to assist them in voting down negro supremacy in the South, the white people in North Carolina will answer the call. It will be doubly disgraceful, if when the people of the North are overthrowing their leaders and coming to our aid, we should abandon our cause from a craven fear. Let us not become educated to oppression. Because so frequently denounced as "traitors" and "rebels," let us not conclude that we have no rights—no constitution—no government—no country. We have a great work before us. The enemy have already deployed their forces and unmasked their batteries. Their black cohorts have displayed great aptitude and enthusiasm in party drill and manoeuvres; their white leaders have proved themselves bold and unscrupulous; they are prepared for the onset, and we must meet it manfully and on the skirmish-line. Let our defence be as bold as their attack, and we must be successful. Victory in the preliminary engagement, although with our consent, will only invigorate them for the main fight. With the sympathy of the North, so recently and so strongly expressed, we have the vantage-ground, which we must not lose from any want of organization or effort. Let us, therefore, abandon all time-serving policies and meet the foe squarely upon the very threshold, and victory must be ours.

A New School Book.

A Latin Reader, to which is prefixed an epitome of the Latin Grammar, together with notes and copious references to the Grammars of Harkness, Andrews, and Stoddard, and Balloons; also, a vocabulary and exercises in Latin prose composition, by William B. Silber, A. M., College of the city of New York, author of "Progressive Lessons in Greek. New York, A. S. Barnes & Co., 111 and 113 William Street, 1867.

This book contains what its title promises. The author intended to furnish beginners with a Latin hand book, and succeeded in giving, in a very condensed form, a good Grammar, followed by a Reader, a Vocabulary and Exercises in Latin prose composition. This book would have been much more useful, and deserve an unqualified recommendation, had Mr. Silber deemed it expedient to devote to the syntax, which covers only five pages, the room which its importance requires in a book that is designed for beginners. We do not doubt, however, that such as it is, it will prove satisfactory in the hands of an efficient teacher.

The South.

In the closing appeal of the New York World to the Democrats of that State, we find the following noble reference to the South, its people and its condition:

"Our Southern fellow-citizens are trodden down under a military despotism and are in confusion and in the narrowest escape from a civil war, which is a foreign and alien, the public spirit of our countrymen flares up in generous indignation, and we do not stop to count the cost of necessary measures of reform. But eight millions of our people are at present deprived of republican government, and are subjected to an arrogant and insulting military tyranny; and this is but preliminary to the still further degradation of them under the rule of their former slaves. It is our duty to rescue them from this monstrous despotism, and give them back the lost blessings of republican government. We are bound to take as great an interest in them as the Republicans affect to feel for the Southern negroes. By their votes to-day we may sweep off their galling chains."

"The North has indeed erred; but this is no fault of the people, but of the leaders. Their was the error of generosity, mainly public-spirited men, who bravely confronted great perils and in the end were victorious. Their belief may have been a grievous error, but grievously have they atoned for it. They are our countrymen, and we must forgive them. They are the victims of domineering intolerance, and we must fix our attention on their virtues, while there was no lower one than theirs. They fought like men, they also submitted like men when they saw it was lost. The Republic, indeed, is a noble and a glorious one, and it is our duty to defend it. Instead of infesting the country with marauding bands, they scattered in silence to their homes, and the Republic was saved. They are our countrymen, and we must forgive them. They are the victims of domineering intolerance, and we must fix our attention on their virtues, while there was no lower one than theirs. 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